

John F. Robins, Secretary and Campaigns Consultant, Animal Concern,  
Post Office Box 5178, Dumbarton G82 5YJ. Tel. 01389-841-639, Mobile: 07721-605521.  
E-MAIL: [animals@jfrobin.force9.co.uk](mailto:animals@jfrobin.force9.co.uk) website: <http://www.animalconcern.org/>  
Animal Concern is a pressure group registered as a non-profit making Limited Company  
(Co. No. SC109126) established in 1988 as Animal Concern (Scotland) Ltd.  
It incorporates the Scottish Anti-Vivisection Society which was founded in 1876.

To supporters of Animal Concern, Animal Concern Advice Line and the Scottish  
Anti-Vivisection Society.

Good Afternoon,

Thanks to all of you who wrote to their MSPs, contacted the First Minister or made a  
submission to the SNH Consultation on General Licences for the massacre of native  
wild birds in Scotland.

I've a few other things I'd like you to consider doing in the next day or two. Most are  
from other organisations and are on important issues we also campaign on. There's  
no point in our wasting resources duplicating their initiatives and better that we show  
solidarity and work together.

Remember you don't have to make a donation or sign-up for another email list on  
every site you visit. The important thing is to sign the petition or send the campaign  
email.

\*\*\*\*\*

Yesterday Scottish Salmon Watch wrote to Scottish Government Ministers giving  
them information on how salmon farms in Scotland are breaching the Animal Health  
& Welfare (Scotland) Act 2006 on a massive scale. It's a very long letter which you  
will [find here](#)

If you can, please email First Minister Nicola Sturgeon MSP and ask what her  
Government is going to do to enforce the Animal Health & Welfare (Scotland) Act  
2006 with regards to salmon farms. Tell her she must put a stop to this  
unprecedented level of cruelty and prosecute those responsible. Nicola Sturgeon  
MSP [firstminister@gov.scot](mailto:firstminister@gov.scot)

If you live in Scotland please also email [your MSPs](#) and ask them to read the letter  
from [Scottish Salmon Watch](#) and to then insist the Government do something about  
this shameful blight on Scotland

\*\*\*\*\*

Cats Protection have a petition calling for it to be made compulsory for all [cats to be microchipped](#)

\*\*\*\*\*

OneKind have a very important petition on the [Scottish Government website](#). You don't have to be in Scotland to sign and support a ban on killing wildlife on Scottish Grouse moors.

\*\*\*\*\*

Our old friends at [Compassion in World Farming](#) have a couple of things I'd like you to support. One is the export of animals for fattening and slaughter. The link below will take you to a prepared email which you can personalise and send to your MP. If you are in Scotland please amend the email with something along the lines of "Although this issue is devolved, without a ban on live exports in England it is impossible to stop animals being shipped by ferry and road all the way from Shetland and Orkney to southern English ports and then on to even longer journeys right across Europe and perhaps on to Africa. Please use your position as an MP to show that Scotland truly cares about animal welfare."

The [second CIWF email to MPs](#) calls for labelling to differentiate meat from animals which have been pre-stunned and those which have been fully sentient when they have their throats slit. Animal Concern has been calling for sentient slaughter to be made illegal for many years now. Clear labelling would be a step in the right direction.

\*\*\*\*\*

David Ainsley of Sealife Adventures in Oban has raised a Petition calling for the Scottish Government to ban the shooting of seals and the use of acoustic scarers by salmon farmers. The first link below will take you to the petition and the second link to more detailed information. A few years ago the US Government announced that if the Scottish Government did not make it illegal for fishery and aquaculture interests to shoot seals then all imports of fish from Scotland would be banned from 1st January 2022. When that announcement was made in 2017 the US Government official mentioned a letter I had sent as Secretary of the Save Our Seals Fund.

After the US announcement I immediately told the Scottish Government they would have to make it illegal to kill seals or from 2022 Scotland will not be able to export as much as a tin of herring to the USA. For some reason Scot Gov has denied the facts and claims it is up to individual salmon farmers to stop shooting seals if they want to

sell to the USA. That is not the case and it has now become clear that the Scottish Government must do something by 31st March 2021 to avoid a total ban on any fish exports to the USA. It has also emerged that it is not just killing seals that must be made illegal, so too must the use of scaring devices which harm the seals' hearing.

I'm now in two minds about this petition. It might make Scot Gov wake up from their self-denial and realise they must change the law and protect thousands of marine mammals to retain fish exports to the USA. If they continue to fail to face facts the US market will be closed to all Scottish fish exports thus saving millions of fish from suffering and death. [I'll leave you with the dilemma](#)

Here's an [excellent article](#) explaining the situation in language even a Scottish Government Minister might finally understand:

\*\*\*\*\*

The Westminster Government is running a consultation on future food strategy in the UK. I've not had time to go through it in detail, but it closes on October 25th so all I can ask is that you go to the Consultation [\(via this link\)](#) and go through it saying whatever you can to help alleviate animal suffering. For instance after Brexit you want all animal product imports to at least meet UK animal welfare standards. Totally oppose allowing genetically modified animals into the human food chain. Call for a ban on all factory farming. Remember that, as with many of the things we do, we have to ask for what is achievable today in the hope that it will be a step forward towards bigger advances tomorrow.

\*\*\*\*\*

You can read about one of our campaigns on the [Animals 24/7 website](#). While you are there please subscribe to their email list and, if you can, give them a wee donation to help them keep going:

\*\*\*\*\*

If you spend any time on the coast of Scotland and, unlike mine, your mobile phone is not a too-smart-for-me one, you might want to download the beachtrack app which allows you to report any sea mammal strandings or accumulations of marine litter. [Check it out here](#)

\*\*\*\*\*

If you'd like to know more about some of the things I've been doing recently, please visit the News section on [our website](#). There's info on the latest spill of salmon morts on a Scottish road, a very interesting item on what we discovered and what we were refused under FOI re the Government giving £2M of public money to build a new cell for the political prisoner Pandas at Edinburgh Zoo, and an item about the Consultation on General Licences which closed last night.

Well that lot should keep you busy for a few days!

Please do what you are able to and help keep the pressure up on the politicians who really do have the power to make a tremendous difference to the way animals are treated. All we have to do is make them use that power.

Cheers4now,

John